

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 161180

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: AF/W:GHMITCHELL

APPROVED BY: AF/W:JLLOUGHRAN

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R 242348Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUTAOU/AMEMBASSY COTONOU 5621

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT LAGOS 6688 SENT SECSTATE INFO TEHRAN DATED
JULY 22.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, IR, XA

SUBJ: PROPOSED IRANIAN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR AFRICA

1. THE NEW IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA, SHAHROKH FIROUZ,
IS RETURNING TO TEHRAN JULY 22 PRIMARILY, HE HAS INFORMED THE
EMBASSY, TO PRESENT TO HIM AN IRANIAN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FOR AFRICA. THE PROPOSAL, IN BRIEF, IS THAT IRAN WILL ESTABLISH
A FUND OF APPROXIMATELY \$250 MILLION FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERN-
MENTS OF DAHOMEY, TOGO, NIGER, CHAD AND CAMEROON. THE FUND WOULD
BE USED FOR JOINT INVESTMENT WITH THESE GOVERNMENTS IN CAPITAL
AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND FOR LONG-TERM SOFT LOANS FOR
WHATEVER PURPOSES THE GOVERNMENTS DESIRE, NO STRINGS BEING ATTACHED.
THE FUND WOULD BE ADMINISTERED BY AMBASSADOR FIRUOZ FROM HIS
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PAGE 02 STATE 161180

EMBASSY IN LAGOS. HE ENVISAGES THAT RECIPIENT COUNTRIES WOULD BE

REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY STUDIES THEMSELVES AND TO SUBMIT THESE TO THE WORLD BANK FOR VERIFICATION. HIS OWN ROLE WOULD BE SIMPLY TO FORWARD THESE VERIFIED STUDIES TO TEHRAN FOR APPROVAL AND ISSUANCE OF FUNDS.

2. OSTENSIBLY HIS REASON FOR DISCUSSING PROJECT WITH US IS TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT IT DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH USG POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES AND TO ELICIT USG "BLESSINGS." EMBASSY'S RESPONSE WAS IN GENERAL TERMS: "INTERESTING," "WORTH FURTHER DISCUSSIONS," AND THE HOPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL MISSION TO TEHRAN.

3. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY THE SCHEME LACKS REFLECTION AND PLANNING IF FIROUZ DIVULGED HIS COMPLETE THINKING. HE WILL SEEK DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY TEHRAN, FROM WHOM WE SOLICIT REACTION AND ASSESSMENT. REINHARDT UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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